Now it cannot be changed. One hour is decided. Now, we take the Short Duration discussion.

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION

Situation arising out of misuse of funds provided by central government under national rural employment guarantee programme

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Puducherry): Sir, I would like to raise here a very important subject. Earlier, on several occasions, in the form of questions and Short Duration discussion, the issue of misuse of Employment Guarantee Scheme Funds by various States has been raised in this august House.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA) in the Chair.]

Sir, day in and day out, there are reports from NGOs and from some independent bodies that the funds meant for National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme are being misused in this country. Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, it is a very important subject. The UPA Government in the Common Minimum Programme has clearly indicated that there should be job opportunity to the poor people living in the villages because urban people are getting employment with the infrastructure industry, service industry and with other industries. But people in the rural areas, the farm labours, when there is off season, are not able to get employment and they have to sit idle at home and their families suffer and starve. Therefore, the UPA Government under the leadership of hon. Prime Minister and also the UPA Chairperson, the hon. Congress President, initiated the move, which was supported by all our alliance, that there should be job guarantee for the rural people provided by the Government themselves. Therefore, the scheme was implemented by the Government about two years back. Funds were provided. The salient feature of the Scheme is that in the rural areas, Adivasi people, the Scheduled Castes people, backward classes people, farm labour and the people who are not employed will get employment for 100 days in a year. And, the minimum wages should be paid at the rate of Rs.80 — in some of the States, it varies. — and that employment should be provided to one member of the family, either male or female member; one family — one job. Under that Scheme, the funds were provided by the Central Government to the States. Ninety per cent is the Central Government's share and ten per cent is the State Government's share. The job card is to be issued by the State Government to the poor people. On the basis of job card, the Gram Panchayat will give employment opportunity to them. The funds are given by the State Governments at the Gram Panchayat level, Tehsil level and also at the District level. The District Collector is the monitoring authority. That is the Scheme which is being implemented and it has got a wide welcome from the people of this country. Crores of unemployed people got employment and for one member in each family, provision was also made under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme that 33 per cent of the beneficiaries should be women. Out of the total persons given employment, 33 per cent ladies should be employed in rural areas. This is a very noble scheme, accepted by the people of this country. Implementation has been made in various States. Sir, whatever money was required by the State Government on the basis of enrolment made, the Central Government sent the money. But, unfortunately, at the State level, at the implementation stage, there is lot of corruption, mismanagement, misuse of funds. The jobs are not being given as per the guidelines issued by the Government of India. We have raised this issue several times. But, Sir, in this country, in the Northern part of the country, there are tribal people and the tribal people live in

Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Maharashtra. In all these States, tribal people, who have been living in the forests, have been the beneficiaries of this Scheme, and Scheduled Caste people have been the beneficiaries. One family will get minimum of Rs.6000 to Rs.8000 per month which is going to sustain the whole family if the employment is given to them according to the scheme given by the Government of India. Sir, the Scheme was launched by the hon. Prime Minister and hon. Chairperson of the UPA from Andhra Pradesh. It received very good response. But, Sir, to my dismay, the implementation at the ground level is very pathetic. I do not want to go into politics. But I will have to mention some States. Some of the hon. Members will not be happy with me if I mention the name of the States, but I have to tell it. In the State of Orissa, in the State of Chhattisgarh, in Madhya Pradesh, in Rajasthan, and in parts of Gujarat, while implementing the Scheme, the funds, which were given for Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, have been siphoned off. They are not reaching the people who deserve the jobs. The enrolment of the people is farce and secondly, false muster roll is being prepared. In some districts of Madhya Pradesh, I personally saw, in Balaghat and Shivni districts, I went there and talked to the *Aadivasi* people, and I found that photo, which is compulsory in the job card, was not there in the job cards. In one family, if there are four people living, all the four people have got job cards. What is happening in the States is that the State Governments are inflating the number of people. By doing that, they get more money from the Central Government, and, ultimately, on the ground, only 60 per cent or 70 per cent of the money is being spent and 30 per cent of the money is diverted. Not only that, Sir, for giving publicity, tell the people about the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. The Government of India allowed to spend, I think, 5 per cent for publicity. Yes, it is, 4 per cent for establishment of the whole money. But, Sir, what I found is this. The Scheme is a Central Government Scheme. Ninety per cent money is given by the Central Government and ten per cent money is given by the State Government. The Chief Minister's photo is there. His photo can be there. We have no problem on that. But, the Prime Minister's photo is not there on the hoarding. It is being implemented as if it were a State Government's scheme, totally ignoring the Central Government's money. It is happening in Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh also. I myself saw the hoardings there. The money is of Central Government and publicity is made by the State Government as if it were their own Scheme, as if it were Chief Minister's Employment Guarantee Scheme, not the Prime Minister's Employment Guarantee Scheme. Not only that, Sir, the money that goes there at the sarpanch level and the people under Collectorate, that money has been eaten away by them. It does not go to the poor people, the *Aadivasi* people and the Scheduled Castes people. The people who deserve it, don't get it. Sir, several surveys have been done by the several NGOs. The then hon. President of India, Dr. Abdul Kalam, also made a comment on it in April 2007. He mentioned, "The corruption and irregularities in the implementation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme...." He asked the Comptroller and Auditor General of India to step into it and make the programme more transparent. He said, "As per the reports, I find, NREGP in different States face rapid corruption, widespread irregularities, delay in payment, fewer working days and lack of awareness among the people". This is the observation of the former President of India. It is my personal experience also. Sir, I gave a letter to the hon. Minister for Rural Development. I got one NGO's report in which it has been mentioned that out of the money given by the Government of India for Orissa, only 32 per cent of the money has been spent and the remaining money has been siphoned off. It is happening in Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh also. I gave a letter to the hon. Minister in writing along with the report.

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि (उड़ीसा): इसीलिए आप को उड़ीसा के प्रभार से निकाल दिया। ...**(व्यवधान)**... आप जिस प्रदेश के प्रभारी थे, आप को वहां से निकाल दिया। ..**(व्यवधान)**.

रेल मंत्री (श्री लालू प्रसाद): अच्छी जगह ले गए हैं।

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister what action he has taken on the basis of the letter which I gave. This is the poor people's money. It should be used for their livelihood, for their sustenance. This is the money given by the Central Government. The hon. Minister Laluji has given the money. The Government of India has given the money. He is a part of the UPA. Therefore, he has given the money. But, that money is being looted by the States. Who is responsible for this? The Chief Minister is responsible for this. It is the primary responsibility of the elected representative to see that it is spent properly for those people. On the one side publicity, and, on the other side, they are not giving them Rs. 70 or Rs. 80. How much are they giving to them? The people who are working very hard labour for seven hours, they are giving them just Rs. 25 or Rs. 30. The hon. Minister might have got the report. You are a very capable Minister, and, therefore, I am telling you that they are giving them Rs. 25 or Rs. 30 for their seven hours of hard work.

For the seven-hour work, minimum wages go beyond Rs.70. But they give them only Rs. 25-30. Remaining money is siphoned off.

Minister Sahib, another thing, which is happening in the name of giving job, is that the works of desilting canal and making roads are being done with the use of bulldozers and JCP machines. They are using machines. Use of machine is prohibited under the Act. Machine should not be used for the purpose of doing the job there. It is for manual labour. This Scheme has been brought to protect the manual labour and to give them employment and to give them wages. But they are using JCP machine and they are using bulldozer for the purpose of making roads and disilting the canal. That is the total violation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme. That has already been brought to the notice of the hon. Minister.

In Madhya Pradesh, I saw, more than 40 per cent of the money spent for publicity at district level and village level. I gave an example of Kanker district in Chhattisgarh to the hon. Minister. I am grateful to you, Sir, for that. Rs. one hundred crore, that was given for the district by the Government of India under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, was diverted. A news report appeared there. Your officials went there and found it. Then the State Government said that they would now reinvest the money; they will give the money back. This is the state of affairs in Chhattisgarh. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme was brought with a laudable objective; if it is diluted by the State Governments to gain political mileage out of it, at the cost of poor people, how can we forgive them? I want the hon. Minister to find the solution for it. I am pleading with the hon. Minister that there should be a monitoring mechanism. The hon. Minister will say, 'Yes, our officials are monitoring it.' Sir, I have respect for your officials. I know what is happening there. Your officials go there. They take them to the places where work is being done. Your officials note it and then come back and give the report. Everything is perfect. I do not want that kind of mechanism. I want a mechanism that is a fool-proof mechanism. You appoint a monitoring committee. I have been pleading for it for a long time. You appoint a monitoring committee of political leaders. You appoint people's representatives in it and let them monitor whether the money given by the Government of India for the

implementation of the Scheme has been properly spent or not. MLAs, MPs, and other public representatives can be there in the Committee.

Sir, not only that, you will have to give the responsibility to Panchayats. The money is not going to Panchayats. Collector is sitting there. He is monitoring everything. He is doing everything according to his whims and fancies. That is how the entire Scheme, which has been brought with the laudable objective, has been diluted. I have made a request for CBI inquiry for Orissa. I have written a letter to the Minister in this regard. Thirty-four per cent spent of the money is spent. Remaining 66 per cent is siphoned off. How can people of the country tolerate this?

Sir, under the Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in Orissa, the tribal districts are Bolangir, Naupada, Kalahandi, Koraput, Nabarangapur, and Rayagada. In these districts, out of the money that has been sent there, only 34 per cent has been spent. Sixty six per cent of the money has been siphoned off. The tribal people have been cheated there. They do not have anything to eat. I came to know about it when I went there and I saw it.

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि: सर, एक मिनट। जो पैसा दिया गया है, उससे काम नहीं हो पाया या उस पैसे को बीच में कोई ऐसे ही बिल बनाकर खा गया है? अगर सरकारी मशीनरी, सरकारी तंत्र, जिलाधीश ने काम नहीं किया है, योजना कार्यान्वित नहीं हुई है, तो यह एक अलग बात है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री कलराज मिश्र): पाणि जी, आप बैठ जाइए। नारायणसामी जी अभी बोल रहे हैं। ..**(व्यवधान)**..

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि: ...**(व्यवधान)**... आप क्लीयर बताइए। ..**(व्यवधान)**

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री कलराज मिश्र): पाणि जी, आप बैठिए, नारायणसामी जी बोल रहे हैं।

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि: आप एक ही प्वाइंट को बार-बार रिपीट कर रहे हैं। You have to clarify and you have to justify... *(Interruptions)*...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री कलराज मिश्र): पाणि जी, आप बैठिए।

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि: महोदय, लालू जी बैठे हैं, एक जिम्मेदार नेता बैठे हैं। आप बार-बार एक ही मुद्दे को घुमा-फिराकर बोलेंगे, 10 मिनट लेंगे, यह क्या है?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, the word Orissa is not untouchable according to me. The Centre for Environment and Food Security Organization has conducted a survey and mentioned the districts. They have also mentioned that the people did not get jobs. They also told about the money that the poor people have been paid. They were paid Rs. 22/- per day for 8 hours' job. It has been mentioned in the report. They surveyed 18 villages and they submitted a report. It was ultimately found that in the Katni district of Madhya Pradesh, the Minister must be having the report, the same position was existing... *(Interruptions)*... That report has come. The Minister has taken action in this regard. Therefore, what is the way out? I want to know from the hon. Minister one thing. When it is happening under the very nose of the Rural Development Ministry, when the funds are being misused, when the money is not going to the poor people, the deserving people, the people who are to be provided employment are not getting employment, then what is the hon. Minister going to do? We need a solution. The money is being used for the purpose of political publicity by those State Governments. They want to strengthen their political party, and they give employment only to their party cadres. That is also happening. When that being the case, there should be a solution to this problem because the monitoring mechanism is not up to the mark. What is the problem with him, Sir? ... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SURENDRA LATH (Orissa): How was he allowed to do that? It is a National Programme... *(Interruptions)*...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री कलराज मिश्र): सुरेन्द्र जी, आप बैठिए, नारायणसामी जी बोल रहे हैं।

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि: एक ही विषय बार-बार ..**(व्यवधान)**..

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री कलराज मिश्र): पाणि जी, आप बैठिए। आप बैठिए, अभी श्री अजय मारू जी आपकी पार्टी की तरफ से बोलने वाले हैं, वे बोल लेंगे। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि: हमको अगर 5 मिनट बोलने के लिए कहेंगे तो बोल लेंगे, सर, व्यवस्थित भाषण दे सकते हैं।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री कलराज मिश्र): आप बैठिए, प्लीज।

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, I agree that it is a National Programme. The Central Government has got the power to monitor the National Programme... *(Interruptions)*... That

4.00 P.M.

is what I am telling. I am telling the same thing to the Minister what you are telling me... *(Interruptions)*..

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि: आप हमको गाली देंगे तो क्या हम सुनेंगे। ...**(व्यवधान)**... बार-बार वही ...**(व्यवधान)**...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री कलराज मिश्र): आप शांत रहिए।

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि: हम बाहर चले जाते हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री कलराज मिश्र): आप यहीं बैठे रहिए। आप उनको बोलने दीजिए।

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि: बार-बार एक ही बात को घुमा-फिराकर कह रहे हैं। ..**(व्यवधान)**.. Why is he not becoming Chief Minister of his party?... *(Interruptions)*...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री कलराज मिश्र): आपकी पार्टी से श्री अजय मारू बोलने वाले हैं, वे इनकी बात का उत्तर दे देंगे। ...**(व्यवधान)**... आप बैठिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री कलराज मिश्र): नारायणसामी जी, आप बोलिए।

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, I have mentioned the Katni district in Madhya Pradesh. Even after the work is being done by those poor people, for 15 days, 20 days, 6 months, wages are not paid to them, and they have to wait to get their wages. The Government of India has given the money. What is the problem for the State and the districts in distributing the money to the deserving people? Therefore, I want the hon. Minister to have a foolproof mechanism to monitor it. It should not be used for the purpose of furthering the interest of any political party. It should be for the poor people, the laudable object with which the UPA Government has brought this scheme. Secondly, when there is corruption and misuse of funds, take action against them. Tell the State Governments to take action against them. Rs. 100 crores have been siphoned off in the Katni district so far, no action has been taken so far, in Chhattisgarh no action has been taken.

Today also a lot of questions have been raised on the NREG Programme. The hon. Prime Minister has very clearly stated that the Government is prepared to give any amount of money that the State Governments want for providing jobs to the poor people. It is the guarantee that the hon. Prime Minister has given here. On the request of our young leader, the Prime Minister said that we would extend it throughout the country in

April, 2008. Earlier it was implemented in 200 districts. It has been increased to 350 districts. Now, we are going to have it throughout the country. I am grateful to the hon. Minister for doing this. But as regards implementation, there is a lot of lacuna, misuse, mismanagement and corruption. I want the hon. Minister to consider all these. I feel the only mechanism by which you can do it is to monitor it through the public representatives, instead of officials. That is the only solution which I could find. You are holding meetings. You should hold meetings, at least, once in three months to review the working and spending, and to see whether the right people have been given the jobs. It should be found out so that corruption, mismanagement and misuse of funds can be eliminated. The hon. Minister is capable of doing it. He has taken action in certain States where it has been misused. But there is large scale misuse of funds. I want the hon. Minister to take strict action and to appoint a monitoring committee, not at the administrative level but of the people who have got experience in the field. It should be monitored through it so that the funds will go to the poor people and the poor people, who deserve it, will get employment.

With these observations, I request the hon. Minister to take immediate action in this regard. Thank you.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री कलराज मिश्र): अभी चार बजे माननीय रेल मंत्री जी अपना प्रस्ताव प्रस्तुत करेंगे।

GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION

Recommendations of Railway Convention Committee (2004) as Contained in paras 23 and 24 of its third report.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): Sir, I beg to move:

That this House approves the recommendations of the Railway Convention Committee (2004) as contained in Paras 23 and 24 of their Third Report, which was laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on the 12th August, 2005.

The question was proposed.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री कलराज मिश्र): प्रस्ताव प्रस्तुत हुआ, इस पर कोई बोलने वाला नहीं है, इसलिए मैं इस प्रस्ताव को वोट के लिए प्रस्तुत करता हूँ। प्रस्ताव यह है:

That this House approves the recommendations of the Railway Convention Committee (2004) as contained in Paras 23 and 24 of their Third Report, which was laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on the 12th August, 2005.

The motion was adopted.

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION

Situation Arising Out Of Misuse Of Funds Provided By Central Government Under National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme - (Contd..)

श्री अजय मारू (झारखंड): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, 2005 में यूपीए सरकार ने जब राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण रोजगार